Irregularities pointed out by CAG in DoT

†3098. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Communications and its subordinate departments have not submitted any action taken report on the various irregularities pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor General;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the action taken report would be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Preparation and submission of Action Taken Notes on the report of C&AG is a process which involves collection of information from the filed units and vetting of the same by Audit. In case of Department of Posts, Action Taken Notes on all paras of C&AG reports were submitted to Audit/Monitoring Cell. In case of Department of Telecommunications, in most cases Action Taken Notes have been submitted to Audit/Monitoring Cell. In a very few cases, delay in preparation of Action Taken Notes has occurred because information were to be collected from field units from the level of Secondary Switching Areas.

Computerised trunk telephone exchanges in Rajasthan and Orissa

3099. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computerised trunk telephone exchanges functioning to date in Rajasthan and Orissa;

(b) the number of such exchanges proposed to be started in both Rajasthan as well as Orissa during the current financial year;

(c) the details of telephone exchanges expanded during 2000-2001 and those proposed to be expanded in 2001-2002, State-wise; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the current waiting list to date for telephone connections in Jaipur/Bhadrak in Orissa and by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of computerised trunk telephone exchanges functioning in Rajasthan and Orissa are 2 (two) and 1 (one) respectively.

(b) There is no proposal to start such exchanges in the State of Rajasthan and Orissa during the current financial year.

(c) The telephone exchanges expanded during 2000-2001 in Rajasthan are 103 and capacity expanded is 304686 lines. In Orissa 128 exchanges were expanded and capacity expanded is 131950 lines. The proposed expansion in Rajasthan and Orissa during 2001-2002 are 300000 and 135000 lines respectively.

(d) The current waiting list as on 31-7-2001 for telephone connection in Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Bhadrak (Orissa) are 13037 and 250 respectively. The waiting list is likely to be cleared by the end of the current financial year.

Misuse of STD/ISD facilities in various Government Departments

3100. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure on telephones with STD/ ISD facility provided to officers in various Ministries/Departments has shown abnormal increase over the period of time; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to check the misuse of this facility and the resultant wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information regarding expenditure on telephones with STD/ISD facility provided to officers of different Ministries/Departments is available only with respective Ministries/Departments. Telephones provided to officers of Department of Telecom for their official use for rendering service are not billed.